



An Introduction to the Office of Small Business Advocate

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Office of Small Business Advocate

Office of Small Business Advocate

History of the Office

- In 2010, the 106th General Assembly passed Senate Bill 3484 which created the Office of Small Business Advocate.
- Primary sponsor's of the legislation were Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey and then-House Republican Leader Jason Mumpower.

Office of Small Business Advocate

**Public Acts 2010, Chapter 1129
(T.C.A. § 8-4-701 et seq.)**



Office of Small Business Advocate

History of the Office

- The Office of Small Business Advocate is housed within the Comptroller of the Treasury's office.
- The Comptroller of the Treasury is one of three Constitutional Officers, is elected by the General Assembly, and is part of the legislative branch of state government.

Office of Small Business Advocate



What does
the Small
Business
Advocate
do?

Office of Small Business Advocate

The Office of Small Business Advocate serves as a point of contact to state government for Tennesseans who are starting a business or who already own a business.



Office of Small Business Advocate

Small Business Defined:

- The office's definition of small business is statutorily defined as “a business entity, including its affiliates, that employs **50 or fewer** full-time employees (T.C.A. § 8-4-701).”

Office of Small Business Advocate

Small Business Advocate's Duties

(T.C.A. § 8-4-702)

- To answer questions and provide information to Tennesseans starting a small business or who already own and operate a small business.
- To informally mediate and assist with the resolution of issues concerning small business owners and state departments and agencies.

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Small Business Advocate's Duties (T.C.A. § 8-4-704)

- Work with each state agency and department to ensure that small business owners who receive enforcement-related communication or contact by an agency or department are provided with a means to communicate or comment.
- Receiving comments from small business owners regarding actions by agency or department employees conducting compliance or enforcement activities.

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Small Business Advocate's Duties (T.C.A. § 8-4-704)

- Referring comments from small business owners to the affected agency or department.
- Maintaining the confidentiality of the identity of the small business owner when referring comments to departments and agencies.
- Rating agencies to the extent which they notify small business owners about the existence of the Small Business Advocate.

Office of Small Business Advocate



How is the Small Business Advocate able to assist small business owners & carry out the statutory functions of the office?

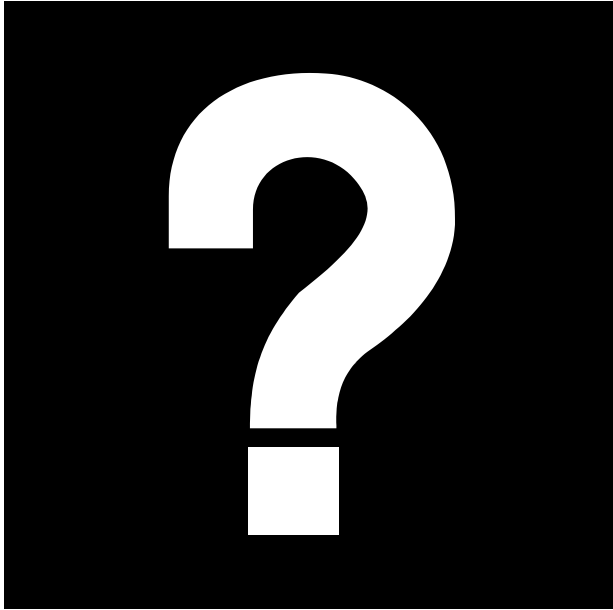


Office of Small Business Advocate

State Department and Agency Duties (T.C.A. § 8-4-703)

- Each department and agency with regulatory authority over businesses is statutorily required to appoint an individual to serve as a contact person for the Office of Small Business Advocate.

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Why have a
Small
Business
Advocate ?

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Office of Small Business Advocate

**Small business owners
should not have to waste their
valuable time figuring out the
who, what, where, when, &
why of state government.**



Office of Small Business Advocate

Tennessee Facts

- 555,712 businesses in Tennessee
- At least 540,000 of those businesses have 50 or fewer employees.
- 97% of Tennessee's businesses are small businesses.



*According to the US Bureau of Labor statistics & the US Small Business Administration





Office of Small Business Advocate

Success Stories



Office of Small Business Advocate

Success Story One: Small business owner seeking licensure.

Success Story Two: WWII veteran is considering purchasing a gas station in West Tennessee. He needs to know if there are resources out there to help him decide.

Success Story Three: Small business owner has concerns over enforcement action including penalties and interest by a department.

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Goals for the Office

- Serve as a guide for small business owners to state government.
- Advocate on behalf of small business owners to the Executive branch.
- Become another voice for small business owners in the legislative process.

Office of Small Business Advocate

Contact Information

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